

Appl. No.: 10/586,212

Response Dated December 31, 2009

Response to Office Action of December 1, 2009

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a cutting filament for a plant cutting apparatus such as a grass trimmer or edge trimmer, the filament being made of a synthetic material having elongated molecular chains, comprising the following steps:
  - (a) bringing the filament to a state of controlled viscosity,
  - (b) drawing the filament lengthwise to produce a first longitudinal molecular orientation,
  - (c) imposing on the filament a change of cross section ~~capable of so as to~~ partially ~~reorienting reorient~~ the molecular chains in a transverse direction.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, comprising a step consisting in:
  - (d) imposing on the filament a second change of cross section ~~capable of causing so as to cause~~ a second partial reorientation of the molecular chains in a transverse direction.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the second change of cross section is made in a general direction substantially identical to that of the first change of cross section.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the second change of cross section is made in a general direction substantially orthogonal to that of the first change of cross section.
5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the second change of cross section is made partially in a general direction substantially identical to that of the first change of cross section and partially in a general direction substantially orthogonal to that of the first change of cross section.

Appl. No.: 10/586,212  
Response Dated December 31, 2009  
Response to Office Action of December 1, 2009

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the filament has, before the implementation of step (c), a uniform cross section whose dimensions in two orthogonal directions are similar.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step (c) comprises a flattening of the filament.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the change of cross section, or at least the last change of cross section, of the filament is capable of forming forms a filament comprising a body and at least one wing protruding from the body.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the change of cross section of the filament, or at least one of the changes of cross section, comprises forcing the filament through a series of dies of progressively different sections.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the change of cross section of the filament, or at least one of the changes of cross section, comprises forcing the filament through a single die of variable section.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, comprising also a step of cutting the filament whose section has been changed into a plurality of individual subfilaments in the longitudinal direction of the filament.

Appl. No.: 10/586,212  
Response Dated December 31, 2009  
Response to Office Action of December 1, 2009

14. (Original) A cutting filament for a plant cutting apparatus such as a grass trimmer or edge trimmer, the filament being made of a synthetic material with elongated molecular chains such as a polyamide, wherein, in at least one zone of the cross section of the filament, the orientation of the molecular chains diverges from a longitudinal orientation.

15. (Original) The cutting filament of claim 14, comprising a body and at least one wing protruding from the body, and in that said wing forms a zone in which the orientation of the molecular chains diverges from a longitudinal orientation.

16. (Original) The filament of claim 15, wherein the wing has a generally triangular cross section.

17. (Original) The cutting filament of claim 15, wherein, in the body of the filament, the molecular chains are oriented essentially in the longitudinal direction of the filament.

18. (Original) The cutting filament of claim 14, wherein, over most of its cross section, there are molecular chains oriented longitudinally and molecular chains oriented generally in a given transverse direction.

19. (Original) The cutting filament of claim 14, wherein, over most of its cross section, there are molecular chains oriented longitudinally, molecular chains oriented generally in a first given transverse direction and molecular chains oriented generally in a second given transverse direction.

20. (Original) The filament of claim 19, wherein the first and second transverse directions are essentially orthogonal to one another.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a cutting filament for a plant cutting apparatus such as a grass trimmer or edge trimmer, the filament being made of a synthetic material having elongated molecular chains, comprising the following steps:
- (a) bringing the filament to a state of controlled viscosity,
  - (b) drawing the filament lengthwise to produce a first longitudinal molecular orientation, the filament having a uniform cross section whose dimensions in two orthogonal directions are similar.
  - (c) imposing on the filament a change of cross section ~~capable of so as to partially reorienting reorient~~ the molecular chains in a transverse direction, with a flattening of the filament,
  - (d) imposing on the filament a second change of cross section ~~capable of causing so as to cause~~ a second partial reorientation of the molecular chains in a transverse direction, with at least local flattening of the filament.
22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the step (c) comprises a localized flattening and a localized thickening of the filament.
23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the change of cross section, or at least the last change of cross section, of the filament ~~is capable of forming forms a~~ filament comprising a body and at least one wing protruding from the body.
24. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the change of cross section of the filament, or at least one of the changes of cross section, comprises forcing the filament through a series of dies of progressively different sections.

Appl. No.: 10/586,212  
Response Dated December 31, 2009  
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25. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the change of cross section of the filament, or at least one of the changes of cross section, comprises forcing the filament through a single die of variable section.

26. (Original) The method of claim 21, comprising a step of cutting the filament whose section has been changed into a plurality of individual subfilaments in the longitudinal direction of the filament.